

Cloze Practice 2

Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (15 x 1 = 15 marks)

In the olden days, it was rare that girls could read. Most parents do not send their **1** _____ to school. However, Jane Austen and her sister were sent to a school for a short period of **2** _____. Later, it was actually their father who taught them to read and write when he could no longer **3** _____ to pay their tuition.

Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775 in Hampshire, England. She became **4** _____ of the first famous female writers. Her father, George Austen, was a clergyman and her mother's name was Cassandra Leigh Peirrot. She had an older sister **5** _____ she was very close to throughout her life. She also had six brothers.

Jane Austen began writing at a very tender **6** _____. By the time she was just twelve, she had **7** _____ several homemade books which she later compiled and gave them the **8** _____ "Volume the First", "Volume the Second" and "Volume the Third". She wrote another book at around this time and called it "History of England". At this early age, she already showed signs of writing **9** _____ great wit and humour.

In 1793, Jane Austen **10** _____ writing her first novel. Simply called "Elinor and Marianne", the names of the two sisters in the novel, the

title was later **11** _____ to “Sense And Sensibility”. It has become a very popular literature textbook that is **12** _____ in schools today. In 1796, she started on **13** _____ novel, “First Impressions”. This novel would later be called “Pride And Prejudice”, another great literary **14** _____.

Jane Austen contracted Addison’s disease and her health **15** _____ rapidly. She died on 18 July, 1817, with her sister keeping vigil by her bedside.

Answers:
1. daughters
6. age
11. changed

2. time
7. written
12. taught

3. afford
8. titles
13. another

4. one
9. with
14. work

5. whom
10. started / began
15. deteriorated